

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A dustproof cover comprising:

a cap-shape cover portion having a substantially closed end; and

a packing protecting portion extending from a peripheral wall of an opening of said cover portion in a continual longitudinal direction, an inner surface of the cover portion includes a lip separating the packing protecting portion from the closed end of the cover portion, said packing protection portion having a cross-section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction that is further from the longitudinal axis than a cross-section of the cover portion;

wherein said cover portion has a hole in a front surface and an engaging projection provided on an inner surface of said peripheral wall of said cover portion, and said engaging projection is configured to engage with a lock arm provided on the outer periphery of a connector, said cover portion is fitted to said connector so as to cover a front portion and an outer peripheral portion of said connector and said packing protecting portion covers a packing exposed around the outer peripheral portion of said connector.

Claim 2. (Original) A dustproof cover for a connector according to claim 1, wherein an inner peripheral surface of said packing protection portion is formed in such a manner as to be brought into close contact with said packing.

Claim 3. (Canceled).

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A dustproof cover according to claim 1, further comprising:

a prefitting dustproofing structure whereby said connector is provided with dustproof protection before said connector is fitted to a mating connector,

wherein said prefitting dustproofing structure is fitted to the outer periphery of said connector from a front side of said connector, and said packing is protected by said packing protecting portion of said dustproof cover.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A prefitting dustproofing structure comprising:

a connector provided with a packing exposed around an outer peripheral portion of a rear end of said connector and a plurality of electrical contacts located adjacent openings in a front portion of the connector for electrical connection to mating electrical contacts of a mating connector, ~~each of the plurality of contacts including one of a male connection structure and a female connection structure, the connector including at least one separate electrical conductor extending from the rear end of said connector,~~ the connector extending in a direction away from the packing, and said packing having a cross-section perpendicular to the longitudinal direction that is greater than a cross-section of the connector along the same direction; and

a dustproof cover having a packing protecting portion extending from a peripheral wall of an opening of a cover portion in a continual longitudinal direction,

wherein said dustproof cover is fitted to said connector so as to cover the front portion and the outer peripheral portion of said connector with the cover portion, and said packing protecting portion covers said packing.

Claim 6 (Original) A prefitting dustproofing structure for a connector according to claim 5, wherein an inner peripheral surface of said packing protection portion is formed in such a manner as to be brought into close contact with said packing.

Claim 7 (Original) A prefitting dustproofing structure for a connector according to claim 5, wherein said dustproof cover comprises an engaging projection provided on an inner surface of said peripheral wall of said cover and said connector comprises a lock arm on the outer periphery thereof, and

wherein, said engaging projection is engaged with said lock arm when said dustproof cover is fitted to said connector.